

Significant Tornadoes in the Chicago Metropolitan Area

Date	F	Death	Injury	County(ies)	Location/description
5/22/1855	NA	3	6	Cook	Brief touchdown at Norwood Park.
6/3/1860	NA	0	4	Kane, Cook, Lake	15 mile path from west of Elgin to Dundee to Lake Zurich. Other tornadoes struck near Glencoe and Long Grove.
5/16/1876	F3	2	35	Cook	Tornado ripped apart buildings in downtown Chicago. A large multiple vortex tornado was seen moving out over Lake Michigan.
5/23/1878	F4	2	8	Cook	From 6 miles east northeast of Elgin to near Barrington.
9/29/1881	F2	0	0	Kendall	From south of Yorkville to near Oswego.
5/18/1883	F4	4	15	Boone, McHenry	From northwest of Capron to just across the Wisconsin border. 3 people were killed in Illinois and another person was killed in Wisconsin.
5/18/1883	F2	0	2	Will	Near Peotone.
6/11/1883	F2	0	1	McHenry	Southeast of Harvard.
9/18/1886	F2	0	20	Will	Moved northeast along the DesPlaines River hitting Joliet.
6/10/1890	F2	0	0	Will	Just south of Channahon.
5/25/1896	F3	0	NA	Cook	Park Ridge, Edison Park, Norwood Park, Niles.
11/11/1911	F2	0	NA	DuPage	3 miles east of Aurora to northeast of Naperville.
11/11/1911	F3	0	5	Lake, Porter IN	Leroy to 3 miles west of Valparaiso to south of Michigan City.
4/6/1912	NA	0	18	Cook	Niles Center (now Skokie) and Wilmette.
4/21/1912	F2	0	20	Kankakee, Lake IN	13 mile path from St. George through Grant Park.
5/26/1917	F4	3	60	Will, Lake IN	33 mile path from Manhattan to 2 miles northeast of Crown Point.
5/26/1917	F4	4	60	Lake, Porter IN	20 mile path from south of Crown Point and ended near Kouts.
3/28/1920	F3	8	100	Kane, Cook, Lake	From just southeast of LaFox to the south side of Elgin to Wauconda.
3/28/1920	F4	20	300	Will, Cook	53 mile path from 2 miles north of Channahon to Romeoville to the

					Bellwood-Maywood area to Wilmette and out over the Lake. The worst damage was Maywood through Melrose Park.
9/11/1925	F2	0	1	DuPage	7 mile path beginning 4 miles southwest of Wheaton.
5/18/1926	F2	0	6	Cook	Harvey.
5/5/1930	F2	0	0	Cook	Maywood.
4/30/1933	F2	0	3	Kane	Plato Center.
4/7/1948	F3	0	1	Grundy, Will	3 miles southwest of Coal City to Braidwood.
4/7/1948	F4	4	20	Kankakee, Lake, Porter, Jasper	40 mile path From 2 miles west northwest of Manteno to 5 miles south of Hebron. 3 fatalities were in Illinois, one in Indiana.
4/7/1948	F2	0	11	Cook, Lake, Porter, LaPorte	30 mile path from Calumet City to 4 miles south of Michigan City.
11/13/1951	F2	0	0	Lake IN	Near Gary.
5/27/1954	F2	0	0	Kendall, Kane	Near Aurora. Another smaller tornado occurred near Westmont.
6/1/1954	F2	0	0	Lake IN	5 miles southwest of Lowell.
8/23/1956	F2	0	3	Cook	Tinley Park.
8/23/1956	F2	0	0	Kane	Near Elgin.
7/12/1957	F2	0	0	Lake IN	Near Cedar Lake.
8/6/1958	F2	0	0	Kane	Near Aurora.
8/15/1958	F2	0	0	Lee, DeKalb, Kendall, Will	A family of tornadoes moved across a 70 mile path from Dixon to Compton to Sandwich to Joliet.
10/9/1958	F2	1	0	McHenry, Lake	43 mile path from west of Harvard to near Waukegan.
9/26/1959	F1	0	14	Cook, Lake IL	12 mile path Palatine to Lake Forest.
9/26/1959	F2	0	0	DuPage, Cook	Near O'Hare, Niles, Park Ridge.
10/8/1959	F2	0	1	McHenry	McHenry.
3/4/1961	F2	1	115	Cook	South side of Chicago from 91 st & Western to 68 th at Lake Michigan. \$7 million in damage.
4/23/1961	F3	0	4	Will	27 mile path from Lorenzo to Beecher.
4/23/1961	F2	0	0	Lake, Newton IN	Near Lowell to Shelby and Roselawn.
6/23/1962	F2	0	10	Cook	Oak Forest.
7/20/1962	F2	0	0	Lake, Porter IN	Griffith to Crocker.
4/19/1963	F2	0	0	McHenry	Crystal Lake.

4/11/1965	F4	6	75	McHenry, Lake	Crystal Lake to Wauconda. Path 11 miles long as much as 400 yards wide. \$1.5 million in damage.
4/11/1965	F2	0	0	Lake IL	Druce Lake to Gurnee.
5/26/1965	F2	0	11	DuPage, Cook	Addison to Ohare.
5/26/1965	F2	0	0	Cook	Near Sauk Village.
11/12/1965	F2	2	90	Grundy, Will, Cook	Near Channahon to Tinley Park. 36 mile path.
11/12/1965	F2	0	14	Lake IN	Munster.
4/19/1966	F2	0	3	DuPage	Near Lisle.
6/9/1966	F2	1	30	Cook	Arlington Hts to Prospect Hts.
4/21/1967	F4	24	500	Boone, McHenry	2 miles southeast of Cherry Valley to Belvidere to near Woodstock. 28 mile path, as much as ½ mile wide. \$20 million in damage. 13 killed and 300 injured as 12 buses were tossed around at Belvidere High School at dismissal time.
4/21/1967	F4	1	100	Kane, Cook, Lake	Elgin to Lake Zurich. 17 mile path. \$10 million in damage.
4/21/1967	F2	0	0	Kane	LaFox.
4/21/1967	F2	0	0	Kane, Cook	Northwest side of Batavia, southeast side of Geneva, to Streamwood.
4/21/1967	F4	33	500	Cook	Palos Hills to Oak Lawn to south side of Chicago. 16 mile path, 200 yards wide. Over \$50 million in damage. Chicago area's most deadly tornado.
10/24/1967	F2	0	0	Lake, Porter IN	Near Portage.
4/30/1970	F2	0	9	Cook	Des Plaines, Park Ridge.
8/24/1971	F2	0	2	DuPage	Naperville.
4/6/1972	F2	1	22	Will	Shorewood and Joliet.
7/17/1972	F3	0	0	Grundy, Will	Minooka to Joliet.
7/17/1972	F2	0	0	DuPage	Glen Ellyn.
8/25/1972	F2	0	1	Cook	Near Park Ridge.
9/28/1972	F4	0	20	Lake IL	North Chicago to Waukegan. 5 mile path. \$1 million in damage.
4/21/1973	F2	0	0	DuPage	Wheaton.
6/20/1974	F3	0	5	Lake IN	Lowell.
6/17/1975	F2	0	0	Cook	Schaumburg, Rolling Meadows.
3/12/1976	F3	0	3	Kendall, DuPage	23 mile path from south of Oswego to Villa Park.
3/12/1976	F3	2	66	DuPage, Cook	17 mile path Northlake to Willmette.
3/12/1976	F2	0	0	Lake, Porter	Deep River.
3/12/1976	F4	0	7	Lake, Porter, LaPorte IN	25 mile path from Deep River to

4/20/1976	F2	0	2	Lake IL	Michigan City. 200 yards wide. Zion.
6/13/1976	F4	2	23	Cook, DuPage	Lemont. 8 mile meandering path. \$13 million in damage.
6/30/1977	F2	0	1	Lake, Porter IN	Hobart to South Haven.
6/25/1978	F1	1	0	Will, Kankakee	Southeast of Wilmington.
8/15/1978	F2	0	0	McHenry	Huntley.
7/16/1980	F2	0	0	Kane	Hampshire.
4/27/1984	F3	1	5	Kendall, Will	Plainfield.
9/29/1986	F1	0	10	Cook	North Riverside.
4/5/1988	F2	0	0	Grundy, Will	Wilmington to New Lenox.
8/28/1990	F5	29	350	Kendall, Will	Oswego to Plainfield to Joliet. 16 mile path. \$165 million in damage. Only F5 to ever occur in Chicago area.
3/27/1991	F3	0	7	Will, Cook	Romeoville to Lemont.
8/15/1993	F2	0	0	Will	New Lenox.
4/19/1996	F2	0	2	Lake IL	Zion.
5/18/1997	F2	0	0	Lake IL	Lindenhurst to Gurnee.

A significant tornado is defined as a tornado of F2 or greater intensity, or a tornado that caused any fatalities, or at least 10 injuries. The Fujita scale, or F scale, estimates wind speeds based on damage intensity. F0=40-72 mph, F1=73-112 mph, F2=113-157 mph, F3=158-206 mph, F4=207-260 mph, F5=261-318 mph. F scale is determined by conducting ground and air surveys of the damage path. The F scale was developed in the 1970s and was later applied to historical data based on written accounts and photographs of the tornado damage. Therefore the F scale ratings are subjective and may not accurately reflect the wind produced by the tornado. The Chicago metropolitan area includes the following counties; McHenry, Lake, Kane, DuPage, Cook, Kendall, Will, Lake, Indiana. Sources; StormData, Storm Prediction Center, and Significant Tornadoes by Tom Grazulis.